

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Tallinn, August 11, 2005

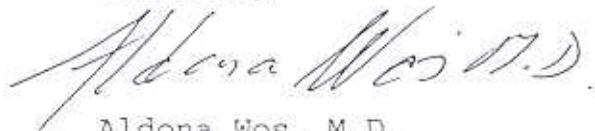
Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

On behalf of the Government of the United States of America and the American people, I would like to express my Embassy's sincere condolences for the tragic loss of Estonian lives in yesterday's Copterline helicopter crash.

This sad event reveals once again just how closely Estonian and American lives are intertwined. Two of the Estonians who died - Ms. Ruta Kruuda and Ms. Kristel Soll - were friends of the U.S. Embassy who participated in our programs. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families as well as to the families of Ms. Liisa Suuster and Ms. Carolina Kremenetski. Our thoughts are with them in this difficult time.

As your losses have now become our losses so too, I am afraid, that our losses are also yours. As fate would have it, the two American citizens who died yesterday were Estonian-Americans: Ms. Lydia Riis Hamburgren - born in Estonia in 1918 - and her daughter Ms. Mary Elizabeth Hamburgren. We are grateful for your expressions of condolence at their loss and have relayed them to their families in the United States.

Sincerely,



Aldona Wos, M.D.
Ambassador

His Excellency
Andrus Ansip,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia,
Tallinn.